

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

/075 W

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R 021150Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7915

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 888

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 5746

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR YO KN

SUBJ: LOCAL REACTION TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 211862, (B) BELGRADE 5527 (NOTAL), (C) BELGRADE
5448

1. AS EMBASSY REPORTED IN REF B, AND AS IS STILL THE CASE,
YUGOSLAV MEDIA TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE HAVE REFRAINED
FROM DIRECT EDITORIAL COMMENT ON PANMUNJOM MURDERS.
PRESS HEADLINES, THRUST OF REPORTS AND MAJOR PORTIONS
THEREOF HAVE BEEN BASED SQUARELY ON KCNA COVERAGE OF INCIDENT
AND ITS AFTERMATH. SEVERAL ARTICLES HAVE, BURIED NEAR THEIR
CONCLUSION, INCLUDED BRIEF INSERTS FROM WESTERN NEWS
AGENCY REPORTS, NONE OF WHICH, HOWEVER, QUOTED AT SUFFICIENT
LENGTH TO ANYWHERE NEAR BALANCE (DIRECTLY) PRECEDING NORTH
KOREAN VERSION OF EVENTS. THE ONLY WESTERN NEWS REPORTS
THUS FAR CONSPICUOUS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT HAVE DEALT WITH
OUR DISPATCHING OF CARRIER GROUP AND FIGHTER SQUADRONS
TO SOUTH KOREA.

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2. HOWEVER, WHILE THE INCIDENT ITSELF HAS NOT BEEN THE SUBJECT OF EDITORIAL COMMENT IT HAS SERVED AS POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR EDITORIALS IN RECENT DAYS ADDRESSING GENERAL SITUATION IN KOREA. MOST COMMENT HAS BEEN STRAINED ATTEMPT TO PLACE RECENT EVENTS IN BROAD HISTORICAL CONTEXT WITH PRONOUNCED ANTI-AMERICAN ORIENTATION IN PORTRAYAL OF POST-WORLD WAR II KOREAN HISTORY. CALL FOR UNIFICATION, IMPLICITLY UNDER PYONGYANG, IS EVER PRESENT.

3. WE BELIEVE ALMOST TOTAL RELIANCE BY YUGOSLAV PRESS ON NORTH KOREAN "REPORTING", IN ADDITION TO BIAS IN EDITORIAL COMMENT (ALBEIT LIMITED) ON KOREAN SITUATION IN GENERAL, REFLECTS GENUINE YUGOSLAV SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN POSITION.

4. ONLY OFFICIAL REACTION WE ARE AWARE OF AT THIS POINT IS NON-REACTION TO OUR PRESENTATION TO FSFA ON THIS SUBJECT REPORTED REF C.
SILBERMAN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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